



LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA

May 2012

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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The Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Program - as authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 is a systematic approach to coastal restoration using critical near-term ecosystem restoration projects and large-scale, long-term programs to restore natural features and ecosystem processes. The LCA program is being developed and implemented in partnership with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) and aims to slow the current trend of coastwide wetland loss and resource degradation. Several restoration techniques are employed in this program, including river diversions, marsh creation and barrier island restoration.

Due to the high rates of land loss in southeast Louisiana's deltaic plain,

Critical restoration features:

1) Mississpipi River Guif Outlet Canal (MRGO) environmental restoration
2) Small Diversion at Hope Canal
3) Bardaria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration
4) Small Bayout Lafurourche reinfroduction
5) Medium diversion at Myrite Grove with dedicated dedging
6) Terrebonne Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration
8) Convey Atchafalaya River water to northern Terrebonne marshes
9) Small Diversion at Convertified River
10) Amite River Diversion Canal Modification
11) Medium Diversion at White Diversion
13) Land bridge between Calliou Lake and the Gulf of Mexico
14) Modification to the Caernaron diversion
15) Modification to the Caernaron diversion

Baton
Rouge

Lake
Charles

White
Lake

United Agents

White
Lake

United Agents

White
Lake

Critical features 1-5 contingently authorized
Critical features 1-5 contingently authorized
Critical features 8-15 contingently authorized

project locations include the Lake Maurepas swamp area, the Atchafalaya River area, the Terrebonne Basin and barrier island system, the Barataria Basin and barrier island system and the east bank of Plaquemines Parish into Breton Sound.

Program Features

The LCA Program includes 15 projects subject to feasibility studies, the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, a Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDMAT) program and a Demonstration Projects (DEMO) program. Thirteen of the fifteen studies are under way or complete and the BUDMAT program is poised to initiate construction.

LCA 6

- Six projects are conditionally authorized for construction upon completion of a Chief of Engineers Report, as outlined in WRDA 2007 Section 7006(e)(3)(A). These 6 projects are:
 - Terrebonne Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration
 - Convey Atchafalaya River Water to Northern Terrebonne Marshes
 - Multi-purpose Operation of the Houma Navigation Lock
 - Small Diversion at Convent/Blind River
 - Amite River Diversion Canal Modification
 - Medium Diversion at White Ditch
- The Chief of Engineers Report for these 6 projects was completed in December 2010. A Design Agreement was signed with CPRA in December 2011 initiating more than \$20 million in work on Preconstruction Engineering and Design efforts. The signing of the Design Agreement represents the transition from planning efforts to design efforts for six of the 15 near-term LCA projects, setting the stage for approximately \$1.4 billion in construction of coastal restoration features should Congress and the Administration allocate funding.

LCA₅

- Five projects are contingently authorized for construction upon completion of Construction Reports, as outlined in WRDA 2007 Section 7006(c)(1). These 5 projects are:
 - Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Environmental Restoration (MRGO)
 - MRGO ecosystem restoration is being pursued under a separate authority at 100% federal funds. The feasibility study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are near completion.





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- Medium Diversion at Myrtle Grove with Dedicated Dredging (MDMG)
 - The feasibility study and EIS for MDMG is currently under way. The project team is conducting extensive basin side and river side modeling to inform the development of alternatives. A Construction Report is scheduled for October 2014.
- Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration (BBBS)
 - The BBBS Final Integrated Construction Report and EIS are near completion. A Chief of Engineers' report is scheduled for June 2012.
- Small Diversion at Hope Canal
- o Small Bayou Lafourche Reintroduction
 - The Small Diversion at Hope Canal and Small Bayou Lafourche Reintroduction studies require cost share agreements with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana to begin.

LCA 4

- Four projects are conditionally authorized for construction upon completion of a Chief of Engineers Report, as outlined in WRDA 2007 Section 7006(e)(1). These 4 projects are:
 - o Gulf Shoreline at Point Au Fer Island
 - The feasibility study and EIS are under way with the identification of a Tentatively Selected Plan scheduled for October 2012. A Chief of Engineers Report is scheduled for October 2013.
 - Land bridge between Caillou Lake and Gulf of Mexico
 - The feasibility study and EIS are under way and the team is currently reviewing the draft Tentatively Selected Plan based on sustainability guidance received from USACE HQ. A Chief of Engineer's report is scheduled for October 2013.
 - Modification of Caernaryon Diversion
 - The feasibility study and EIS are under way and the team is using H&H modeling to inform the study process. A newly developed path forward requires completion of the report with a recommended plan by November 2013.
 - Modification of Davis Pond Diversion
 - The feasibility study and EIS are under way and the Project Development Team is close to selecting a recommended plan. The scheduled study completion date is November 2013.

Other LCA Efforts

The BUDMAT program focuses on the beneficial use of sediment from Federally-maintained waterways in coastal Louisiana. Program costs are designed to be above and beyond the Federal Standard, which currently dictates beneficial use by the Corps of Engineers. The Corps is currently preparing a cost share agreement with CPRA to begin the annual process of soliciting, screening, selecting, planning and designing beneficial use projects for implementation in Fiscal Year 2013.

The DEMO program focuses on addressing scientific, engineering and technical uncertainties related to LCA coastal restoration projects. Currently, the team is developing Project Management Plans for three demonstration projects in advance of the execution of a Design Agreement in Fiscal Year 2013.

The Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, which is under way, is an important effort that will identify and evaluate a combination of large-scale management and restoration features to address the long-term sustainability of the lower Mississippi River Deltaic Plain. Hydrodynamic models and other forecasting tools will be used to refine current data on existing water and sediment resources in the Mississippi River that are potentially available to aid in restoring and sustaining deltaic growth in the Mississippi River Delta. These tools will also be used to assess the projected benefits and potential impacts of large-scale strategies that could be recommended for implementation and would balance the interests of ecosystem restoration, flood risk reduction and navigation.

Additional information on the Louisiana Coastal Area program, and specific projects within the program, is available at www.lca.gov.